

RRR

ROTHBARD-ROCKWELL REPORT

AUGUST 1993

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 8

Who Are the "Terrorists"?

by Murray N. Rothbard

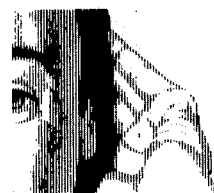
Let's see if I've got this straight: a fanatic blind Muslim sheik was nabbed in the act of mixing the "witch's brew" in his bomb factory. . . .

Not quite, though the media tried their best to convey this impression. Friday, June 25, and "terrorists!"—a word always good for a headline—was all over the media. Fanatic A-rabs, unappetizing looking characters to be sure, were all over the media, the FBI was patting itself on the back for heroism, and was seconded by all the media, and the pundits were all screaming for "retaliation." And since the arrests took place in New York, even Mayor Dinkins was looking good, just because he hung around to have his picture taken in the vicinity of the FBI.

Well, in the first place, I'm sorry, call me jaded, but I just can't get worked up over terrorist acts that *don't* take place. I mean: terrorist acts occur all over the U.S. every day—murders, rapes, car-jackings, drive-by shootings, et al.—and no one gives much of a damn. On the contrary talk about *these* every-day terrorist acts very much and you're liable to be accused of being a "racist" by the same jackasses who are howling for retaliation against shadowy A-rabs. But these

A-rabs, who seem frankly like a bunch of klutzes, haven't *done* anything yet. I mean, all they've done so far is *not* assassinate former President George Bush, and *not* blow up the UN building or assassinate Al D'Amato. (I must admit I kind of like that bit about blowing up the UN building, preferably with Boutros Boutros-Ghali inside.) Yes I know there was the blowing up of the World Trade Center, but that seems to have been largely a different group of A-rabs. (Besides, they were klutzes too. Since when does a terrorist show up the next day at the rental place of the blown-up car and demand his deposit back? That sounds more like the Ritz Brothers than honest-to-God terrorists.)

(Cont. page 3, col. 2)



THE EAR

by Sarah Barton

Electronic bulletin boards are made for Libertarians, who can indulge their logorrhea and yen for instant gratification. Sitting at their computer keyboards, they punch out instant messages, little heeding that the public is listening in.

When the two R's left the Libertarian Party four years ago, they predicted that

very soon the triumphant "performance team" would soon be

(Cont. next page, col. 1)

These A-rabs, who seem like a bunch of klutzes, haven't done anything yet.

INSIDE

<i>New York Politics '93</i> , by M.N.R.	10
<i>Quotes That Need No Comment</i>	12
<i>Goldwater Reconsidered</i> , by M.N.R.	15
<i>Conservatives and The Role of Congress</i> , by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.	17
<i>More Quotes That Need No Comment</i>	17
<i>The Racial Attack on Banks</i> , by L.H.R., Jr.	19
<i>PC Watch</i> , by L.H.R., Jr.	20
<i>Margit von Mises</i> , by L.H.R., Jr.	23
<i>How To Become A Happy Martyr</i> , by M.N.R.	24

(THE EAR cont. from pg. 1)

at each other "like scorpions in a bottle." And, wow, my dears, are they ever! Once again, as always with Libertarians, the fight is over a delicious blend of personality and ideology.

Since the disaster of the Marrou presidential campaign in 1992, the national LP has been split into two snarling factions. The outs, who met secretly in Atlanta shortly after the election, are the Atlantacoids, or the CLM (Committee for a Libertarian Majority). The CLM wants to change the party by dumping the oath (or pledge) of "non-initiation" of force, as well as the radical party platform. Thereby, the CLMers hope, the LP will cast off its radical image and look like the Real World parties. The CLMers are headed by 1992 Veep candidate Nancy Lord, her husband free-market Atlanta thinktanker Michael Tanner, and blustering Chicago commodity trader Steve Givot. The direction of CLM "pragmatism" may be seen by the fact that their leader, Nancy Lord, favors civil rights laws and the welfare state.

The Ins, or the Old Guard, or purity faction, is led by national chair Mary Gingell, national secretary Joe Dehn (once Oregon, now Colorado), Gingell's ex-husband Bill Evers, and other long-time Big Names in the LP. The Pledgers, or Old Guard, want to keep the pledge and the radical platform.

Well, it didn't take long for the ideological to become personal. The focus of attack is national chair Mary Gingell; Givot and his fellow CLM pit bull, Clay Conrad of New York, are bitterly denouncing Mary for her

alleged "close personal relationship" with Joe Dehn, not, heaven forbid! for prurience sake, but because said relationship "affects Mary's performance" as national chair, and presents a "conflict of interest" (?) between her and the national secretary. In reply, Mary fired Marketing Coordinator Jo Jorgensen because her "close personal relationship, with Steve Givot was affecting *her* performance and represented its own "conflict of interest."

This goes on and on for weeks and months, with bitter attacks by and on Givot and Conrad, defenses of their own position, the other guys being accused of being liars, evil, etc. And then, of course, there are a few rank-and-file boobs wandering into the electronic network and wondering why everyone hates everyone else, how there can be an effective party in these conditions, and various other sweet but naive sentiments which of course have zero impact.

Finally, in the midst of this brouhaha, Steve Givot came up with a shrewd proposal. He proposed that the leaders of both sides rescue the bloody and torn LP by giving up high office for the crucial and unusually long three-year term of officers who will be chosen at the National Convention this Labor Day weekend at the Salt Lake Marriott. Sounds reasonable, right? The battling leaders: Gingell, Dehn, Givot, Conrad, Ernsberger, et al. should gracefully retire from the National Committee or national office for three years. Why not? Sounds great: joint disarmament.

But of course there's a big

hook in the offer. For the whole point of the fight, the central focus of the problem, is Mary Gingell and her controversial "management style," and her battle for re-election. For Gingell to agree not to run for re-election would be tantamount to Gingell surrendering her fragile emotional health for a three-year period. And all the leaders on both sides know it.

The bottom line is this: knowing the LP, the CLMers will probably lose the pledge-and-platform fight. In the last analysis, however, they will be willing to settle for the head of Mary Gingell. And they *might get it!* Because the rank-and-file LPers, who can be stirred to defend the purity of the platform, will then be willing to compromise on personalities they know little about! And to the rank-and-filers, dumping Gingell would seem like a good compromise stance.

Gingell's controversial "management style"? It can best be called "prothysterical." Gingell has been described by her Givotian enemies as a "micro-manager" and lacking "stability." In reality it's worse. She has never gotten over her MBA degree from Harvard, which has made her an insufferable bureaucratic formalist (full of charts, conferences, "goals," and all the rest). On top of that, she is a nag prone to temper tantrums. Personally, I am not and never have been an LPer, but if I were a rank-and-filer, this solution would look pretty good. One would only want to wish Mary Gingell as head of an organization if you really hated the guts of that organization.

For old LP watchers, it's not news that the Gingell group is the remnant of the old Bergland faction: indeed, David Bergland (LP presidential candidate in 1984) and his wife Sharon Ayres popped up recently as alternate members of the National Committee from California. One delicious item on the electronic bulletin board was the alleged threat of Bergland to "drown" CLM pit bull Clay Conrad in the hotel pool. There ensued a flurry of typically Libertarian messages on the bulletin board: was the threat to "drown" justified; did Conrad's "verbal aggression" justify it? etc. in the usual wash of pseudo-philosophic verbiage.

To Old LP watchers, drowning the entire gang sounds terrific. To paraphrase the old joke: What do you call it if a boat filled with the top LP officials sinks beneath the waves? Answer: A good start.

* * * * *

As part of their alleged leap to the "real world," Givot and the CLMers got the NatComm to agree to appoint a Shadow Cabinet of LPers. You know, like the Labor Party in Britain? See, the idea is: if a problem arises in the news about some political area, the media will rush to get a statement from the LP "Cabinet" member. Sure, I can see it now: the A.P. rushing to the Shadow Health and Human Services Secretary for a take on health care? Or the Shadow Secretary of State on Bosnia?

Note *this* is the "Real World" faction!!

Hey, LP! who's going to be the "head" of IRS? Or the LP "AIDS Czar"?

(TERRORISTS? cont. from pg. 1)

The war-crowd are thirsting for "retaliation," although even they admit reluctantly, that not every A-rab, or every Muslim, is the same and evil. Well, I've got a simple suggestion, based on the grand old libertarian (and Biblical) principle of proportional punishment: "let the punishment fit the crime."

OK, then: for the grave act of *not* assassinating George Bush, the U.S. reacts by *not* bombing Iraq, or *not* murdering Sadaam.

For the act of *not* bombing... what? There are wild, unproven mutterings about all the standard suspects: Iraq, Iran, Libya, but there's a new actor in this play. For most of these arrested non-(or at worst, proto-) terrorists, come from... Sudan! Sudan, a big country, hostile to "pro-Western" (English translation: on the CIA payroll) Egypt. I have seen Sudan described in the media in the last couple of days (after June 25) as (a) "Marxist," and (b) "Islamic fundamentalist." Hell, you pays your money and you takes your choice. What difference does it make if the two are incompatible? They're both "fanatically anti-West," right? (English translation: they either spurned CIA money or, like poor old Noriega, *yesterday's* Third World thug, took CIA

money and then betrayed it).

As soon as I saw the word "Sudan" being slung around, I figured the next step was for all the pundits to start calling for bombing/occupying/bringing food to/bringing "human rights" to, Sudan. Sure enough, Sudan has all the conditions for the next U.S./UN New World Order quagmire: lots of people, a dictatorship (what else?), ethnic conflict (what else?), and lots of starvation (of course.) To top it off, the government is in the hands of an Arab (boo!), Muslim (double boo!) dictatorship,

while the rebels in the South are black (hooray!), primitive (double hooray) and Christian (hooray, except in Bosnia where Muslims are good and Christians are bad. Well, you expect consistency?). *Except* that most of the primitive blacks in southern Sudan are only "Christians" by courtesy of the American media; almost all of them are "animists" (English translation: pagan).

So now we switch the possible boo (for Christian) to a definite hooray (for "animists," who are closer to Mother Earth).

Well, I've evolved a theory, which has worked all too well so far: When the U.S. Establishment decides to invade a country, the first thing they do is to send CNN with TV cam-

There are wild, unproven mutterings about all the standard suspects: Iraq, Iran, Libya.

eras to show us starving kids with flies around their faces. They did it with the Kurds in Iraq; they did it in Bosnia; they did it in Somalia.

So: on the night of Friday, June 25, watching CNN World-wide News in a moment of weakness (since I've tried to swear off TV news), what should be the first thing I see? You got it: starving black kids in Sudan with flies around their faces! Get set, Americans, Sudanese, and whatever anti-war movement is left: Hands Off Sudan!

The Blind Fanatic Sheik

Back to the poor old blind fanatic sheik. But first, let us give more than the usual lip service to the "alleged" part of the charges against these A-rabs. Everything so far is "alleged," the word of a mole, and who knows if the mole was chewing qat or whatever during that period. Let's not convict Siddig and his pals before they get a trial in open court. OK?

But apart from that, I'm particularly interested in this poor blind sheik, one Omar Abdel-Rahman of Jersey City, quite far from the "bomb factory" of Siddig and the boys in Queens, New York. What is the evidence against the blind sheik (who is as little likely to be mixing the chemicals in the witch's brew of bombs as Lew Rockwell's blind fireman is to be pointing the hose in the direction of a fire).

Well, all these guys, Siddig and the mad bombers, are communicants in Sheik Abdel-Rahman's mosque in Jersey City. In fact, Siddig himself, the supposed leader, has been an

official English interpreter for the blind sheik. Hey, well that proves it, doesn't it? Except that it proves far too much; on these grounds, half the Catholic priests in New York, Chicago, etc. should be in jail as presumptive directors or "inciters" of crimes of the Mafia. Don't they all go to the same churches?

But, charge the hopped-up U.S. media, the sheik is a preacher of "violence," so therefore he's "incited" his followers to these dire deeds, or non-deeds, even if he was not in on them directly. But the problem is that the blind sheik himself vigorously denies all this; he claims that he is strongly opposed to any destruction of person or property.

But isn't blind sheik Omar a radical? Yes. Isn't he a "fundamentalist"? Well, the word "fundamentalist" is really a misnomer, since it should only apply to pre-millennialist dispensationalist Protestants whose creed was set forth in 1910 in a set of volumes called "The Fundamentals...," but let that pass. Let's say that the sheik is a dedicated preacher of Islam. More concretely, the political radicalism that the blind sheik preaches is something he is very candid about: he preaches the overthrow of what he considers the heretical dictatorial regime of Hosni Mubarak, president of Egypt. Yes, Sheik Omar is a preacher of revolution and violence all right, but not in the United States, only against the Egyptian government! So why should we give a damn?

Andrea Peyser, what used to be called a "sob sister" columnist for the tabloid *New York Post*,

proclaims loudly that she's mad. Mad at "that vicious little sheik in a Santa Claus hat," this "pseudo-religious nut" (*N.Y. Post*, June 25), and mad particularly that she "screamed so loud it shook my entire brownstone: 'Why the hell is he still here?'"

Well, if you will sit still and calm down, Andrea, I'll tell you why this religious leader [who the Hell are *you* to say he's "pseudo-religious" or a "nut"?] is still here. In contrast to many immigrants beloved by the left, Sheik Omar is here legally, and he's here as a political refugee, or as what *U.S.A. Today* oddly referred to (June 25) as a "self-imposed (sic) exile." Why is Sheik Omar a refugee? Because the Mubarak regime wants to get Omar back to Egypt where it can put him on trial for "inciting" "terrorists," some of whom assassinated Mubarak's predecessor and mentor, Anwar Sadat, twelve years ago.

Commendable zeal on the part of Mubarak, you say, even though the charges are a bit old? But that overlooks the main point; twelve years ago, you see, the Mubarak regime *already* tried the blind sheik on the same charge, and he was acquitted, even by the Mubarak-dominated courts. *Now*, Mubarak wants Omar back in Egypt so he can try the blind sheik once again. Although, oddly enough, Egypt has yet to file an extradition request for Omar.

A few years ago, I would have thought that double jeopardy would be repugnant to every American, and therefore that if anyone is a political

refugee and we grant asylum to such people, Sheik Omar is a worthy recipient. But now, of course, we have proved, with the double trials of the L.A. Four (Stacy Koon and the rest of the police) that double jeopardy is no longer a human, much less a constitutional, right, so long as the defendant is Politically Incorrect. And boy is Sheik Omar politically incorrect, probably more so in the United States, the land of the free, than in his Egyptian homeland.

Let us turn to what happened to the poor blind sheik on that fateful afternoon of Thursday, June 24. He was sitting alone in his modest Jersey City apartment just after noon (*not* in the Queens "bomb factory"), when he "heard somebody knocking very hard on my door." "When I started to walk toward it," the sheik added, the door "was busted in." A bunch of FBI and local police, then burst through the door, manhandled the sheik, and searched the apartment for five hours, hauling out eleven cardboard boxes of "apparent evidence." What did the feds and cops take? They were accompanied by a "bomb-sniffing dog," and you can bet your boots that if the dog had sniffed out a bomb or a proto-bomb, the news would have been

If Bush or Clinton pushes around any group long enough, that group starts looking pretty good to me.

splashed all over Friday's media.

What did they take? According to Sheik Omar, they took what he has in his apartment. "What do I have here? Just books and tapes." And then the sheik added: "I would never have books on bombs or explosives. The books are all on religious subjects." The young bomb-factory guys were damned by the media because they were caught in the act of "reading books on engineering." Hey, maybe these guys are taking some courses, or just interested in

expanding their knowledge of science?! At any rate, we might find out differently at a trial, but so far the blind sheik's words have the ring of truth. And as of this writing, interestingly enough, Sheik Omar, despite all the hysteria, has neither been charged nor arrested. So maybe there won't be any trial, at least for him.

Contrast good sense, and the American concept of proof, however, with the statements of one of those accursed "experts on counterterrorism" who always pop up on these occasions. This time it's Vincent Cannistraro, identified by *USA Today* as a "former" counterterrorism official with the CIA. On the fact that the accused A-rabs are members of Omar's

mosque: "That ties him [Omar] in very closely. These people are all part of the extended family of the mosque." Oh, oh. The words "extended family" in the mouth of the feds should give one much pause. You remember what happened to the Christian "extended family" of poor incinerated David Koresh? Cannistraro is also wistful about the difficulty of proving a case against the evil sheik. The problem, says the ex-CIA man, is that the sheik "is known to inspire followers through his preachings, not to give direct orders to underlings." Gee, that's pretty diabolic, isn't it? "Conspiracy," sighed Cannistraro, "is a hard thing to prove." I'm afraid that if Cannistraro and his ilk had their way, it wouldn't be difficult to prove, at all.

An old friend of mine, after reading my June RRR article, "Hands Off the Serbs!," exclaimed: "Murray, I didn't think you could ever like the *Serbs!*" Well, I replied, it's getting to the point where, if Bush or Clinton pushes around any group long enough, that group starts looking pretty good to me. And right now, as the media hysteria pours in, the little blind sheik, this poor old guy poring over the Koran and preaching justice as he sees it, is looking pretty good to me. (No officer, I'm neither a fanatic A-rab nor a fanatic Muslim...)

The Weirdo Paid Informer

Central to the prosecution case, as usual in these matters, is the traitorous informer, who in this case turns out to be Emad

Ali Salem, a security aide to our beloved blind sheik. Salem, however, turns out to be a rather weird character, not the sturdiest witness for the prosecution. Salem, now of course in protective custody, is an Egyptian immigrant who claims to have been a former Egyptian lieutenant colonel, who came here "seeking peace and financial opportunity." (*New York Newsday*, June 26). In his modest Manhattan hotel suite, however, there is proudly displayed a photo album, in which pictures of family members are juxtaposed with photos of Salem's torture victims from his previous life as an Egyptian army officer. Furthermore, *Newsday's* own anonymous informant, a close friend of Salem and a member of the Brooklyn Arab "community," reveals that "for the past few weeks, Salem was talking about weird stuff, trying to set people up"; and Salem's buddy believes that Salem may indeed have "instigated" the entire bomb plot. Naughty, naughty fellas, that's called "entrapment," a venerable though immoral device, that might get the entire case against Siddig and his merry crew thrown out somewhere down the line. What would have been Salem's motive for such dastardly actions? The answer, disclosed by a law-enforcement informant, is that Salem received hefty payment from the FBI for his information. In that way, the good Colonel was provided with an alluring "financial opportunity" for manufacturing said "information" and for "setting up" Siddig and the boys,

especially since Salem's jewelry design business seems to be in shaky shape.

Who Were the Terrorists? The Waco Inferno

Who exactly *are* "terrorists," and what do they do? For a while, the neocons, who as usual appear to have a monopoly on pundits, in this case "counter-terrorism experts," used to define terrorism in such a way that the word applied only to dissidents *opposed* to government. But since this definition left out terrorist-inciting Bad Guy governments, the concept was then expanded to include "State terror," so as to encompass the governments of Iran, Libya, the Soviet Union, etc.

But if we are willing to include "State terror," and surely we should, then we should begin to assess exactly who are the terrorists in many recent dramatic confrontations.

Take the massacre and inferno at Waco. Most people are familiar with this horror, so I will just summarize briefly:

(1) There is *still* no rationale offered for the brutal first invasion of the Branch Davidian building at Waco. The invasion was an armed assault by hooligans calling themselves the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF). Government officials making an arrest are supposed to knock on the door, ask the home-owners to open up, and hand them a warrant or make the arrest. Yet the BATF went in guns blazing.

(2) There is still no plausible excuse for the original warrant. The Branch Davidians lived as an extended family in a building

labelled a "compound" by the Establishment. So what? The Branch Davidians kept arms. So what? Arms for self-defense is still legal in America. But the guns were illegal? Not according to the Davidians, who claim to have bought them at gun shop sales. The BATF mutters that the arms may have been altered to become illegal. For *that*, they went in with guns blazing?

(3) The Establishment has been hinting about "child abuse" by the Davidians. Some evidence, please? Moreover, child abuse is not a federal offense, but a local one, and the state authorities were not concerned.

(4) David Koresh, leader of the Branch Davidians, jogged regularly outside "the compound" (English translation: his home), and also regularly shopped in town. Hence, the BATF could have arrested him peacefully at any time. Why didn't they?

(5) David Koresh had been accused of murdering a rival Davidian leader. Yes, but he was arrested and charged with that crime several years ago (arrested while shopping in town), and was *acquitted* of all charges!

(6) The deaths of the "four brave young BATF officers" were caused by the Branch Davidians fighting back at an armed assault by people who for all they know could have been gangsters, muggers, or whatever. Self-defense when one's home is invaded by armed assault is, fortunately, still legal in this country.

(7) There was no excuse either for the second and final

assault at Waco. The Janet Reno explanation that the BATF/FBI team were getting "tired" sitting out there surrounding the "compound," sounds like some funny, cynical statement that a Sidney Greenstreet or George Sanders would dream up as an excuse for some violent crime. If they were tired, they could have sent another shift in, or, better yet, they *could have gone home*.

(8) Knowing that there were many families in the compound, why did the BATF/FBI cut off all the electricity and the water? And since the electricity was cut off, doesn't the testimony of the Davidian survivors make sense: that they had to use kerosene lamps and that therefore the terrible fire arose when the Federal tank began to bulldoze the Davidian home, turning over a kerosene lamp and setting the fire?

Since this is clearly the plausible explanation and the testimony of this holocaust's survivors, why does everyone believe the Establishment hokum that Koresh and the Davidians killed themselves in a mighty Apocalypse?

(9) Everyone believes the Establishment hokum because the Clinton/Reno/Federal establishment, happily aided by the left-secularist media, deliberately smear the Davidians as "religious nuts," a "crazed cult," and people who, after all, predicted an Apocalypse.

Well, in the first place, their prediction unfortunately turned out to be correct; their prediction, let us remember, was not that *they*, the Davidians, would bring on a fiery Apocalypse and

immolate themselves, but that *other people*, Establishment Bad Guys, would visit this disaster upon them. And they proved to be right! Maybe they weren't so nutty after all.

Secondly, once we start defining a "cult," that is once we demonize a group, we are setting up a slope that is not only slippery, but as fast as greased lightning. Does that mean that any religious group that lives together will be targeted for a similar fate? What about monasteries? Convents? Does that mean that the government will start issuing Certificates of Non-Cultness to religious groups?

(10) Even though the feds had fenced off the remains after the holocaust at Waco, they quickly proceeded to bulldoze the entire site until nothing was left. What other motive could the feds have had than *destruction of the evidence*, so that nobody else could investigate? And why would the feds want to destroy the evidence?

(11) The debasement of our culture was complete when emerging out of this cauldron of horror was... a new popular icon and media star! I speak of course of the six-foot geekess and alligator-wrestler, La Reno, she with the whining monotone. She became a media heroine by droning on about "I take

full responsibility," which means what? In the old days, "taking full responsibility" for some disaster under your command meant at least one or more of the following; (a) resignation from office, (b) wearing of sackcloth and ashes, (c) a long stretch in the pokey, (d) execution, or (e) falling on your sword. La Reno has performed none of

these acts, has done no act of atonement, and the whining drone alone has elevated her to sainthood in the minds of the public!

So: who were the terrorists in the Waco case? The Branch Davidians, who were peacefully minding their own business, who aggressed against no one, who threatened no one, or... the U.S. government?

I speak of the six-foot geekess and alligator-wrestler, La Reno, she with the whining monotone.

Who Were the Terrorists? The Weaver Case

In August 1992, Randy Weaver, who had been besieged in his mountain cabin for 11 days by federal agents who killed his wife and child and dog was persuaded to surrender to the authorities by right-wing populist presidential candidate Bo Gritz. The government claimed that this murderous siege of one man and his family was necessary because Weaver was a "neo-Nazi fugitive who had plotted an armed confrontation

with the authorities."

"Neo-Nazi" seems a vague and inaccurate term: "anti-Semitic" would be closer; Weaver was a member of the Christian Identity movement, which refuses to recognize the legitimacy of the U.S. government because it believes that government to be under the control of organized Jewry. But so what? Doesn't every American have the right to his political beliefs, regardless how distant they are from the mainstream? The important point for the Weaver case, then, is not the precise delineation of his offbeat views, but whether or not he had "plotted an armed confrontation with the authorities."

Let us see. Mr. Weaver, apparently, was not spending his time plotting subversion or revolution, or, like the buddies of the blind sheik, mixing "witches' brews" of bombs to blow up buildings. Weaver's expression of disenchantment with the U.S. Government was to repair, with his family, to the mountains of northern Idaho, to build himself a cabin without electricity or running water, and to live by growing, hunting, and trading, that is, a pioneering, homesteading Western existence. Mr. Weaver was harming no one.

In 1991, undercover agents for the BATF [Again!] showed up, pretending to be Real People, and, knowing that Weaver, an ex-Green Beret, was a gun maven, proposed to buy two of Weaver's shotguns, provided that he would shorten the barrels a certain amount, making them illegal, according to the

wisdom of the nation's absurd (and unconstitutional) gun control laws, since they would now be shorter than the legal minimum length by a fraction of an inch. Being an honest man and a trusting soul, Weaver proceeded according to the instructions of his two customers, and when he presented the amended shotguns to them, they placed him under arrest for violating the gun control laws. Hey, if that isn't "entrapment," what is?

The feds put Weaver on trial for violating the gun laws, and then, when he didn't show up for the trial, got a fugitive warrant for Randy Weaver's arrest. The interesting catch, which has come out during the current two-month trial of Randy Weaver, is that the feds now admit that they told Weaver the *wrong date* for the trial! (See the illuminating article by Timothy Egan, "U.S. Case Looks Weaker in Idaho Siege," *N.Y. Times*, June 23). See, it works like this: suppose that you are put on trial on some charge, with the date set for, say, September 1. But *they tell you* that the date is September 20, and then, when you don't show up on Sept. 1, they get a warrant for your arrest as a "fugitive"! Pretty neat, huh?

Curiously, as in the case of the Branch Davidians, the Federal agents, the usual blend of BATF, FBI, and local marshals, never even *considered*, much less attempted simply arresting Weaver, presenting him with a warrant, after they traced Weaver to his mountain cabin. Instead, the feds spent a million dollars on 16 months (!)

of surveillance of Weaver, and mounted the final siege deploying no less than 400 heavily armed federal agents.

The first armed confrontation with Weaver began last August, when three expert marksmen from the marshal's service lurked as spies in the woods near the Weaver cabin, heavily armed and camouflaged.

If you were living in an isolated mountain cabin, and your trusted dog sensed intruders in the vicinity, what would *you* do? Exactly. The dog was sent out, accompanied by Weaver's 14-year old son Sam, and a family friend, Kevin Harris. When the dog sniffed out the three agents, they promptly shot and killed the dog. You're a kid, and some unknown intruders have just shot and killed your dog. What would you do? Precisely. Young Sam Weaver fired in the direction of the three agents. Sam Weaver was then killed by at least one of the marshals, who shot Sam—it must be emphasized—in *the back!* At this point, Kevin Harris, seeing his young friend murdered by intruders, shot and killed one of the murdering marshals, William Degan. Harris asserts that he was shooting in self-defense against Degan's threat to fire.

The next day, Mrs. Vicki Weaver, standing, unarmed, in the doorway of her cabin holding her 10-month old baby, was shot and killed by a sharpshooter for the FBI. Is it any wonder, after the murder of his wife and son, that Randy Weaver and his friend Harris were intent on defending themselves to the last, that they didn't trust

the federal force assembled against them?

After Weaver and Harris were persuaded to surrender by Bo Gritz, the feds put them on trial at Boise, Idaho. Harris is charged with "first-degree murder"; Weaver, who injured and killed no one, is charged with aiding and abetting the "murder" of William Dugan.

How dared the federal sharpshooter kill Mrs. Weaver for standing holding a baby in a doorway? The federal rules of armed engagement state explicitly that an agent may only shoot if the agent's life, or someone else's life, "is in imminent danger." It is obvious to everyone that the murder of Mrs. Weaver flagrantly violated the government's own rules. The explanation of Dick Rogers, the FBI agent in charge of the siege: "that the bureau had altered its rules of armed engagement at the scene." How convenient! If you don't like the rules, or they prove inconvenient, just change them on the spot.

In addition to all this, at the trial, Gerry Spence, Weaver's crackerjack lawyer, got the FBI to admit that it had taken away, withheld, and fabricated evidence, and government witnesses have contradicted its own case. Federal Judge Edward

Lodge has denounced the government's actions, and at one point he declared that three-quarters of the testimony and evidence presented by the prosecution had actually aided the defense.

So who were the terrorists in the Weaver case? Weaver, his friend, and his family, who aggressed against no one, or the entrapping, lying, rule-changing U.S. government?

Similarities and Implications

The *New York Times* article declares that there are a lot of similarities between the Weaver and Waco cases. "In both cases," it

says, "what started as a plan to arrest a religious zealot went horrendously off track, resulting in deaths on both sides." Well, I'm not sure how "off track" the results were. And this statement far understates the similarities. In both cases, we are dealing with Christians who have religious ideas off the mainstream. In both cases, you have people who

keep to themselves, and who, like most Americans, maintain arms for self-defense, but who harm and threaten no one. In both cases, operating on evidence that is either flimsy or non-existent, the federal government decides that these are

"gun control violators," and proceeds against them using maximal aggressive force. In both cases, a massacre ensues, largely of the victims besieged by the U.S. government, but also bringing down a few of the government's aggressors. And in both cases, the Established Media, as usual at the beck and call of the federal government, smear the Christian victims as "religious nuts" or "neo-Nazis," and act as if any problems were caused by unfortunate errors by the government, which is generally lauded for its efforts and behavior.

And where, in all this, is the ACLU?

It is surely no accident that the implications being drawn from all this emphasis on terrorism are fully as horrendous as the government's actions. Establishment implications:

(A) From Waco and Weaver:
— Off-beat Christian sects are dangerous "cults."

— Extended family "cults" are dangerous loners.

— Guns owned by private groups have to be eliminated.

In short: maximum gun control (among the public, of course, *not* among government agencies); and hatred of non-established Christian sects.

(B) From the World Trade Center and the Blind Sheik:

— Muslims are evil and dangerous.

— Arabs are evil and dangerous.

— It is important for the federal government to infiltrate, and spy upon all Arab and/or Muslim groups.

— The U.S. government must retaliate instantly, by bombing,

So who were the terrorists in the Weaver Case? Weaver or the entrapping, lying, rule-changing U.S. government?

sending missiles against, and eventually invading and occupying: Iraq, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Serbia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and (fill in the blanks).

Of course, these don't *have* to be the implications of the Grand Terrorist Scare. Contrasting ones can be derived, and here are a few Modest Programs for Action:

1. Immediately abolish the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Who made these guys God anyway? They began as a method of federal enforcement of prohibition (hence the "Alcohol"), and their time, such as it was, has long since gone. Get rid of them.

2. Immediately abolish all gun controls. Then, you see, no one will have to worry if their shotgun is 1/16 of an inch too short or too long. Remember: guns don't kill people, the BATF kills people. The only thing wrong with guns or any other weapons is using them to aggress against the person and property of innocent people.

Like the BATF or the FBI.

Or like Slick Willie, whose missiles on Baghdad, in retaliation for the non-assassination of his predecessor, killed several innocent Iraqi civilians. In their perfunctory expressions of "regret." Willie and General Powell mentioned that this "collateral damage" (English translation: murder) is part of the "inevitable risks" of such operations. Yeah, right, but the question, Willie and Colin, is risks *for whom?* Risks for the conductors of the operation? Of course not; there are no risks incurred by Clinton, Powell, or any of the other perpetrators of

the missile raid. The "risks" are imposed on other folks without their acceptance or knowledge. Shall we call it "the asymmetry of risk"?

So once again: who are the terrorists, here? What quanta of terror-causing should we assign, in their turn to: Slick Willie? The Iraqis in Baghdad? The blind sheik? Randy Weaver? The BATF?

3. Free Randy Weaver, Kevin Harris, The Blind Sheik (if they've nabbed him yet), the

Holocaust-Surviving Branch Davidians, and All Political Prisoners.

4. U.S.: Hands Off the Balkans, the Middle East, and Everywhere Else!

5. US Out of the United Nations, and United Nations Out of the U.S! The UN Building? Who knows? Maybe take a leaf from Siddig and the gang and have a grand blow-up next July 4th. Have a *real* Independence Day celebration; what fire-crackers! ■

New York Politics '93

by M.N.R.

It's 1993, and this means that the quadrennial political extravaganza has hit New York City. New York's mayor, other high elected city officials, and the City Council, are all up for election this year.

New York is of course a famously left-wing city, and has therefore, sometimes slowly, sometimes rapidly, been going down the tubes for decades. But while the city may be overwhelmingly leftist and Democratic, a complicating factor is race. New York has always been a hotbed of ethnic and racial conflict, but in the days of the old-time political bosses, the guys in the smoked-filled rooms could come out with electoral tickets that were carefully racially and ethnically balanced. Now, however, that primaries, in the name of "democracy," have destroyed the old-time pols and their control of the political parties, ethnic and racial conflict has become naked and unalloyed.

In 1989, New York elected its first black mayor. David Dinkins, famously dubbed the "fancy *shvartze*" by Jewish comedian Jackie Mason, first defeated long-time mayor Ed Koch in the Democratic primary, and then went on to defeat Rudolph Giuliani, the Republican-Liberal candidate, in a narrow squeaker in the general election. The city was hungry for racial harmony, and Dinkins, even though a down-the-line leftist, was perceived as "unthreatening" because of his habitually soft-spoken, nerdy, and worried demeanour. Koch, in contrast, was a typically loud-mouth, perpetually kvetching (complaining) and egomaniacal New Yorker, in politics a "moderate" (English translation: left neo-con). Because of the differences in style, Koch was considered a racial aggravator, while Dinkins was held up as a "racial healer."

In the closely fought general election, Giuliani, being almost as